

From: ["Card, Joan" </O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP \(FYDIBOHF23SPDLT\)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=9B904FC95A6348BA81F8DE23B1B2360D-CARD, JOAN>](#)

To: [McGrath](#)  
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CC:

Date: 1/23/2015 9:48:02 AM

Subject: RE: Brief Shaun, cont'd.

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This BNA article reports a different RPý Meadowlark versus Summit.

Water Pollution

Brine Spill From Oil, Gas Operations  
In North Dakota Contaminates Two Creeks

By *Mark Wolski*

Jan. 22 A nearly 3 million-gallon brine spill from a pipeline that carries produced water from oil and gas operations in the Bakken oil fields has already contaminated two creeks in northwestern North Dakota, the state's Department of Health reported.

The department said Jan. 20 that while the release does not pose a threat to human health or public drinking water at this time, the overall environmental impact of the brine release may not be known for several months.

Dave Glatt, chief of the health department's environmental health section, said a salt water collection line operated by Meadowlark Midstream of Denver spilled the brine earlier this month about 15 miles north of Williston, N.D. Both Blacktail Creek and Little Muddy Creek have been affected, he said, and it appears some of the brine may have reached the Missouri River.

Jennifer Sanders, spokeswoman for Meadowlark Midstream, told Bloomberg BNA Jan. 22 the company is currently working with third-party experts to determine the cause of the rupture and that the pipeline carries produced waters from 40 oil production sites in the Bakken oil fields to a disposal well.

#### Cleanup Underway

The company, she said, has been working to clean up the spill since it was discovered Jan. 6. About 70,000 barrels of brine were released from the four-inch pipeline, and about 65,000 barrels of water have been recovered from Blacktail Creek, a company statement said, adding that some of the water was likely freshwater from the creek.

Sampling indicates that chloride concentrations have decreased as the cleanup has continued, the statement said.

Glatt said he expects the cleanup and remediation work to take several months and will require an assessment of damage. However, the creeks need to thaw for workers to see exactly where the brine has traveled. It could be summer before the state has a good grasp of the environmental damage done, he said.

The company may be fined by the department based on the extent of the contamination, how long the spill went unnoticed, and the company's cleanup and remediation efforts, Glatt said.

Kathryn Hilton, spokeswoman for the Dakota Resource Council, a citizens' environmental group, told Bloomberg BNA Jan. 22 that the brine is a concern because it is significantly saltier than sea water. However, she said, since the wastewater is pulled from deep in the earth, it is also likely to contain radioactive material.

#### Spills Not Random, Advocate Says

Also of concern, she said, is the fact that spills related to oil and natural gas production are not random events. She said the state's health department website has reported more than 50 spills related to oil production since the year began. Not all have been brine spills, she said, but the number indicates a significant problem with oil and oil waste transportation.

Hilton said spills and leaks have been occurring since the Bakken oil boom began years ago. It is not clear, she said, just how much oil, brine and other waste products have been spilled in the state.

Given the size of the Meadowlark Midstream spill, she said DRC is hopeful that it will spur the 2015 North Dakota Legislature to examine the state's environmental enforcement efforts. The best that could come out of the spill, she said, would be a health department that prioritizes the health and safety of North Dakotans over oil industry profits.

*By Mark Wolski*

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-----Original Appointment-----

**From:** McGrath, Shaun

**Sent:** Friday, January 23, 2015 9:19 AM

**To:** McGrath, Shaun; Card, Joan; Beeler, Cindy; Bohan, Suzanne; Stavnes, Sandra; Palomares, Art; Chalfant, Mark; Perkins, Erin; Way, Steven; Ostrander, David; Urdiales, Aaron; Smith, Paula

**Subject:** Brief Shaun, cont'd.

**When:** Friday, January 23, 2015 11:30 AM-12:00 PM (UTC-07:00) Mountain Time (US & Canada).

**Where:** RA Conference Room